The Epiphysis of Teliosts and Amia. CHARLES HILL. Jour. Morph. Vol. IX., pp. 237-266. Pls. XII. and XIII. 1894.

The special significance of this paper consists in its filling a gap in our knowledge of the pineal structures in the bony fishes. In connection also with Locy's observations on Elasmobranchs, it is of interest to note that Hill finds two independent outgrowths arising from the roof of the mid brain in the teliosts examined and in amia. These together form the epiphysis, but each vesicle remains distinct. The author considers it probable also that in their primitive position they were side by side and subsequently become crowded into the median line by the growth of the hemispheres. The plates, twenty-two figures, give the clearest possible account of the subject.

Comparative Study of the Epiphysis and Roof of the Diencephalon. A. D. SORENSON. Jour. Comp. Neurol., Vol. IV., pp. 12-72. 1894.

This paper gives the literature of the pineal region more in extenso than any that we have. Each author is treated separately and the main points have been gathered together, summaries copied, etc., so as to give the organ as it has been described in the different classes of vertebrates.

Treatment and Prophylaxis of Insanity. JOHN PUNTON, M. D. Alienist and Neurologist, Vol. XV., pp. 52-66. St. Louis, 1894.

The particular form of mental disease treated by our author is melancholia, the most common and most easily managed of insanities. It may arise as a congenital neurosis or be acquired. Primarily, according to Meynert and Clouston, melancholia arises from trophic disturbances, malnutrition, of the cortex. This theory the author permits to dominate his treatment. Insomnia is a frequent symptom, but drugs which have a tendency to interfere with nutrition, opium and the bromides, are contra-indicated. Sulphonal is the best remedy to apply in these cases. Everything must be done to bring up body weight, generally deficient in melancholiacs, and force nutritive processes to the utmost. For this purpose quinine, strychnia, phosphorus, arsenic, cod-liver oil, mineral acids, vegetable bitters, hypophosphates, et al., and especially foods, milk and eggs: "Three quarts of milk a day and six eggs for months." Yet any treatment will fail without daily exercise in the open air. The chief aim of the paper is to direct the attention of the medical profession to the importance of preventive measures while there is possibility of cure. If this in the case of congenital defects be begun at birth and even before, and continued through nursery and school life, tendencies of this character may be eradicated. An index of especial value in cases tending toward melancholia is body weight. Patients should weigh at least once a month, and if any loss is detected, they should adopt measures immediately to make it up and keep it up.

The Value of Sugar, and the Effect of Smoking on Muscular Work. VAUGHAN HARLEY. Journal of Physiology, Vol. XVI., pp. 97-122, London, 1894.

The experiments were made in Mosso's laboratory with the ergograph. Nasse, Brücke and Weiss have shown that glycogen in the muscles decreases in amount during activity and accumulates during rest. And more recent researches of Chauveau and Kaufmann have demonstrated that sugar in the blood disappears much more rapidly when circulating in an active than in a resting muscle.